

## ALIENISTS OF THE OPERA

INSANITY AS IT IS DEPICTED BY THE PRIMA DONNAS.

Falling Hair Required by Tradition—Tetrazzini Has Added Puffs and a Straight Front—Prima Donnas Not Crazy on the Stage So Often Now.

Prima donnas are not crazy as often as they used to be—that is, on the stage. Some prelude to persons, such as the opera, are crazy all the time, but that is the result of their unjust estimate of the artistic temperament.

In opera they do not go crazy as frequently as they did. Time was when it took a mad scene to bring an opera to a dramatic climax. There is the unfortunate Lucia Ashton, the near bride of Lammermoor, who lets down her hair and sings her wonderful rousers to the wedding guest. She is the healthiest of all the survivors of this old tradition, and it is the opportunity, which the mad scene gives the soprano that keeps Donizetti's opera still in the repertoire.

In "Dinorah" there are three crazy persons on the stage at once, but none of them is much more out of his mind than the unfortunate spectator who tries to discover what the plot is about. Yet in "Pardon de Florence," as the opera is called in French, was popular for years when audiences loved the florid music that is so well exemplified in the shadow song. Even the few people who gathered

Mrs. Calvé sing that music and not realize that something called the unfortunate lady who lettered about the stage on her toes and looked so queer while she sang so beautifully and gave such a really dramatic effect in the music.

That scene was revealed first to a New York audience at the end of a not particularly uninspiring performance of Thomas's not inspiring opera. It made the audience, which had expected perhaps a fine rendering of the music of this scene, sit up and take notice.

Mrs. Calvé did not advance to the middle of the stage with the conventionally solemn stride, but came cowering on as a crazy young lady might be expected to. She had a wig so long that it looked as if she had scalped two German *Isolde*s and

regularly set in, even before the sound of the flute proclaimed her presence.

When Mrs. Sembrich carefully removes a hair from before her eyes that is a sign that brain fog has set in. Whether the single hair really has escaped from her coiffure and is before her eyes is something that audiences at the Metropolitan Opera House have not yet been able to discover.

Sometimes they have thought it was a habit that started when a hair really did happen to get before her eyes and that she has stuck to it all this time just to indicate that something is on her mind besides her hair.

Mrs. Sembrich has always had the courage to try to pretend that she was crazy and unlike other *Lucias* does not come calmly down to the center of the stage and planting herself in front of the prompter's box fix her eyes on the conductor as much as to tell him to try to hurry her if he dare and not to hold on to any of the notes on the other hand so long that she has not a bit of breath left in her body—nothing of that kind, you know, just you follow me.This is Donizetti, not Wagner or even Puccini. Instead of adopting this conventional *Lucia* attitude she tries to voice in the merely ornamental flourish of Donizetti something of the pathos and tragedy of the scene.Mrs. Sembrich has also gone crazy here in "Hamlet," but never in "L'Etoile du Nord," which has not been sung here for years, although *Lucia Tetrazzini* will do it at the Manhattan next month.

"Dinorah," in which the heroine and the

rest of the cast are all in a condition that at least should send them to the psychopathic ward at Bellevue for observation, is one of the operas Mrs. Sembrich has not sung here.

The insanity of most *Marguerites* does not count nearly so much as *Lucia Ashton* or even *Ophelia*, because when she goes out of her head the lights are all turned down and she has the dingy background of a prison cell. On the other hand, up go the footlights when *Lucia* and *Ophelia* come walking on to display their ebulliences.Geraldine Farrar is the most dramatic of all the singers in this "Faust" scene except Emma Calvé, and her predecessor had the assistance of a large cross which she had placed in the prison and on which she used to hang like a smoky print of "Rook of Ages." Anybody who thinks that Miss Farrar does not take her troubles to heart in this scene need only look at that picture. In no other part do her facial expression and her acting show that she is a real dramatic genius more plainly than in the serious scenes of *Marguerite* in "Faust."*Lucia Tetrazzini* introduces a wonderful touch of novelty to her interpretation of the mad scene in "Lucia di Lammermoor," as the picture shows. It may all be very well, she thinks, to let down your back hair. The eloquence of that time honored tradition is not to be denied. But the times march.

This is an age of puffs. There may certainly be a few of them gracefully poised on the brow. That adds height, and then it makes the face look thinner than if it looks of tawny hair fell dramatically alongside each cheek.

It has the same graceful effect as that stiff pleat down the front of *Lucia Ashton's* suit du lit. None of your diaphanous floating draperies for this *Lucia*. Mrs. Tetrazzini did not learn the value of an American straight front until she arrived here, but she knows it now and clings to that article even in bed, if her appearance as *Lucia* is to be taken as evidence of her idea of a sleeping costume.Mrs. Calvé is shown here in a very Parisian attitude of insanity. There is the mark of a Paris *etelée* on the picture, else one might have thought she was reading her press notices the morning after her first appearance as *Gilda*. She is seen as *Ophelia*, a rôle which she has sung with success in Brussels and other European cities.Marcella Sembrich is the most familiar exponent of *Lucy Ashton's* vocal and mental peculiarities, and it has always been possible for audiences to tell just when the first symptoms of mental irregularities and artists. Some time ago she took up the work for the purpose of helping two friends. She received no compensation and did not think of charging any. Her friends proved so satisfactory to the persons whom she induced to employ that that later these employers came to Miss Richards to secure people to fill other engagements. Demands of this kind on her time became so great that she finally decided to go into the work as a serious business.

Miss Ella G. Wilcox of Malden, Mass., is a candidate for the school board. She is a graduate of Michigan University, and for the last six years has taught English at Wellesley College. There are five members of the school board of Malden and the women of the town believe that at least one of the five should be a woman. The women of Malden have therefore persuaded Miss Wilcox to run as an independent.

The National Woman Suffrage Association has rented a house on H street, N. W., Washington, which is to be used as a national headquarters and to be open every day in the year until the ballot is given to the women of the United States. It is expected that the monster petition to which Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt is now devoting her energies will fill several rooms in the national headquarters. This petition promises to be the largest on record.

Mrs. Catt with a corps of assistants is kept busy supplying the demands from every corner of the country for petition blanks. These blanks contain space for twenty-one names and when filled are to be pasted on muslin in such a way that all the petitions from one county will form one strip. A house to house canvass is being made throughout the country for the purpose of securing the signatures of every man and woman over 21 who is not opposed to giving women the ballot.

Mrs. Susan T. Mills, president of Mills

College and the pioneer woman educator of California, has just passed her eighty-third birthday. According to custom, her birthday dinner was celebrated at the college and the birthday cake with its eight or nine candles held the middle of the table.

Mrs. Mills was graduated in 1845 from Mount Holyoke, where she was a student under Mary Lyon. Three years later she married Dr. Cyrus Mills and together they went to India, where they remained six years. They then went to the Hawaiian Islands, where Dr. Mills became president of Oahu College. In 1866 Dr. and Mrs. Mills took charge of a girls' school in Benicia and five years later founded Mills College.

The clubwomen of Wisconsin say that in the recent election they answered a question put by Congressman John Jenkins while he was chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary in the House of Representatives. Throughout his term of office Congressman Jenkins refused to make any committee report whatsoever upon the proposed sixteenth amendment.

He opposed the child labor bill and the bill for a Federal bureau in the interest of children. When the bill for investigation of the conditions attending the work of women and children was before the Committee on the Judiciary he is reported to have asked:

"What has Congress to do with women and children?"

In the recent election Congressman Jenkins was defeated. The clubwomen of Wisconsin boast that they were directly responsible for the defeat of Mr. Jenkins and by that defeat they answered his question.

Maine's Fox Corp.

From Fox News.

About 75,000 fox skins are sold out of Maine every year. Very few of the skins are shot. Many are killed by the use of poisoned bait, while hundreds of others are killed in drives, known as the "New Hampshire method."

## DESK SETS OF METAL.

Handsome Effects in Copper, Silver and Brass—Few Are Cheap.

Noticeable among the holiday offerings are desk sets of peculiarly novel construction which are causing many shopkeepers to break the Tenth Commandment. They are not cheap. Neither are they extremely high in price. From \$20 to \$50 will purchase a set of eight pieces of good size. The newest styles discount brilliancy for dull toned effects—the duller the better. Bright silver and gold are scarcely used at all. Copper is treated to look like several different metals. Brown and dark and light green and yellow bronze tones are the most stylish in certain varieties.

Heading perhaps the assortment of metal sets is an imported variety made of combined brass and copper, which includes letter holder, calendar holder and pen tray, besides the usual inkstand, stamp pad, paper cutter, hand blotter and desk pad, or in place of the desk pad four large metal corners to adorn the corners of blotting paper desk pad size. These corners by the way are an appreciated feature of this year's output of high class desk sets, obviating as they do the necessity of putting up with a desk pad of an inconvenient size simply for the sake of the handsome mountings. The very best designs have nearly all loose corners, which may be mounted to order.

In the brass and copper set mentioned the brass, treated to a dull, perfectly smooth finish, is etched in a design which suggests French Morocco and gives the effect of dark shading. The copper, almost red in tone, forms a carved tablet about two and a half inches square on each article, a small plain space being left in the center for a monogram.

In an example of copper and silver in which the copper presents a dark brown, plain, lustrous surface, the ornamentation is a small silver monogram plate. The silver is of very fine finish.

A remarkably artistic bronze set of Flemish workmanship is decorated with segments of bright green, dull red and dull blue, in an Oriental design. The bronze sets in elaborate designs are finished to look like polished mahogany. Until the inkstand, letter holder or other article is taken in the hand a shopper is almost certain the material is beautifully carved wood. In another variety of bronze two or three shades of green are combined, and the desk pad is bordered all around with a two and a half inch wide cluster of fine bronze bars.

More ornate and equally artistic are sets combining appliques of fine bronze against a foundation of opal color or pale green glass, some of which include an extra photograph frame as well as the calendar frame. In this design the bronze, whether of darker or lighter brown, or of green, is cut out in a vine or a lace or a lattice pattern as delicate as silver filigree, which shows up well against the pale glass foundation.

There are similar sets in which silver of dull finish is used, sometimes against an opal tinted or a green glass background. Still others show green and pale brown appliques combined against a white foundation. Gray and white and brown combinations done with glass and with bronze are also included.

More strictly feminine and equally novel are sets in which hands of royal blue glass are combined with silver filigree and sets in which plain porcelain are bordered and appliqued with dull gold and metals in colors which produce a Dresden effect.

Real Dresden china desk sets, including a clock calendar, show designs conspicuously new and not likely soon to be common on account of their price.

WESLEYAN'S NEW PRESIDENT.

The Rev. Dr. Shanklin Has Made a Name as a Money Getter in Iowa.

MIDDLEBURY, Conn., Dec. 18.—Born a Baptist, educated at a Presbyterian and elected president of a Methodist university is the history in brief of the Rev. Dr. William Arnold Shanklin, who is to be the new head of Wesleyan University in this city.

A warm admirer of the new president is Andrew Carnegie. The story is that at a banquet held not many months ago Mr. Carnegie and Dr. Shanklin were both guests and Mr. Carnegie referred to Dr. Shanklin as the best all round college president his acquaintance.

In the West President Shanklin has gained a reputation as a money getter. It is stated that he has accomplished in the three years that he has been at the head of the Upper Iowa University things not dreamed of by the most sanguine friends of the institution. As an example of his ability to hustle some months ago he set out to raise \$150,000.

The money did not come in as fast as he desired and one morning, when the university was to have a big celebration, he departed off in an auto at the break of day to finish raising that sum. He travelled sixty miles in the machine, made a whirlwind canvass of friends of the institution and returned to the university with the sum of \$150,000 and to announce that not only had he succeeded in raising the \$150,000 desired but he was over \$8,000 ahead of the game.

During the time that he has been at the head of the Upper Iowa University he has nearly doubled the endowment, repaired the buildings, beautified the campus and will in all probability build a new gymnasium before the close of the year, the president in June, 1909.

Dr. Shanklin was born at Carrollton, Mo., on April 18, 1864. After his graduation at Hamilton College, Clinton, N. Y., he received the degree of S. T. D. in 1890 from the Garrett Biblical Institute at Evanston, Ill. In 1889 he was ordained to the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church and served in Kansas, Iowa and Pennsylvania. He was inaugurated as president of Wesleyan in June, 1906, succeeding President Bradford P. Raymond, who resigned after three years.

Country Drive in Russia.

Speed Proportionate to Price Paid—"Through Village" Roads.

From the London Standard.

The Russian popular idea of driving horses is to fog them along mile after mile without a moment's breathing space. The speed is proportionate, within limits, to the price paid, but the horses are never at any speed allowed to slacken.

The high road to Russia runs in a series of ups and downs like an endless "switch-back," and the "jamshiki" (driver) never once allows the horses to slacken. He keeps the pace steady up hill or down, and a regular rate of one verst in five minutes. We insisted several times on giving the poor brutes a few yards at a walk, but at last we had to give up. The conditions attending the work of women and children was before the Committee on the Judiciary he is reported to have asked:

"What has Congress to do with women and children?"

## MORE SLEEP IN OPEN AIR.

CITY DWELLERS TAKING TO THE OUTDOOR BEDROOM.

Not All of Them Tuberculosis Sufferers—Fire Escapes, Balconies, Window Seats, Roofs Made Use Of by Rich and Poor—Health Gained, They Say.

Outdoor bedrooms are becoming more common in New York. They would be more popular were they easier to get. This has been made plain since the opening of the tuberculosis exhibit at the Museum of Natural History.

Persons who never before had anything to say on the subject are beginning to compare notes. Not that the majority of outdoor sleepers have tuberculosis or ever expect to have it. Nervousness, insomnia, a delicate throat, a tendency to catch cold are among the reasons given by men and women for sleeping on extension roofs, balconies, fire escapes, house tops and outcrops projecting half way out of a window.

How many of these persons there are in New York nobody knows. It is agreed, however, that in the aggregate the number of outdoor sleepers is large and growing fast. Conditions make a certain amount of secrecy about the practice desirable. Said a woman who is planning to sleep on a narrow fourth story alcove balcony between two bow windows:

"For mercy's sake don't give my address or I shall have a crowd of the curious opposite my house every night watching my preparations for bed."

This woman's house is in a fine residence street of the upper West Side, which gets a good sweep of river breezes. Like other houses in the block it is finished with an ornamental balcony in line with the fourth story windows. A stone balustrade perhaps thirty-four inches high guards the front of the balcony, and the roof coping forms a partial protecting cover.

Rolled out of sight under this coping is a heavy awning which is let down at night if the weather is stormy. Here on a cot, which is put out at bed time and taken in at daybreak, the owner of the house is acquiring the habit of sleeping soundly, and incidentally "gaining in strength and good looks."

It is the gain in good looks in fact which encourages her to keep right on with an experiment he is not likely to abandon to an accompaniment of no end of good natured chaff from her family. A mild snowfall once or twice in the night has failed to drive her indoors. She allows nothing short of a hard rainstorm to send her to cover.

Her example has been followed by three of her friends living in Manhattan. More of her friends would sleep out of doors, she is sure, were there more houses which include an outdoor projection big enough to hold a cot, the average woman being too timid to sleep on a house top.

An official of the tuberculosis exhibit is certain that the exhibit will have a strong influence on the future architecture of city houses and that the straight up and down boxlike variety of house will go out of fashion. Sooner or later, this man thinks, extensions and balconies of various sizes will be an adjunct of every modern city private dwelling or apartment house, and as a result New York may one day furnish the interesting spectacle of fringes of sleepers decorating the facades and the rear walls of buildings in the best residential as well as the tenement districts.

Just now it is the well to do classes who are giving most attention to demonstrating the healthfulness of sleeping in the open air, and it is city dwellers rather than residents of the country who show the greater enthusiasm on the question of outdoor bedrooms. As an illustration of the lukewarm attitude of the average country dweller toward the teachings of the exhibit the official already quoted repeated the comments of a motherly old lady, hale and hearty in appearance and obviously from the wake of a very stiff young grand-daughter, who was chatting about a campaign of experience she enjoyed last summer. The old lady listened without saying anything until she came opposite a large placard on which were printed conspicuously these directions:

Sleep with your window open. Don't be afraid of night air. Don't be afraid of cold air.

The old lady took off her glasses, polished and then again and carefully turned in the direction of the placard. Then in the tone of kindly tolerance one uses toward misguiding, ignorant adobe come she remarked:

"Dear me, how the fashions do change! When I was a girl our family doctor gave very different advice from that. When I had a cold my mother was told not to let me breathe the night air at all, and father, who suffered a good deal from catarrh, was warned by the doctors not to go out after sundown and to keep his bedroom window shut. To sit out on a piazza late at night was not considered prudent when I was a girl, let alone to sleep on one." And the old lady shook her head disapprovingly as she eyed a picture of a hospital piazza lined from end to end with cots.

There are several families living in the suburbs of New York keen enough to the possible health advantages of outdoor sleeping to be willing to spend considerable money to prove it by adding outdoor extension bedrooms to their houses.

One house, a picture of which is shown, had a year ago merely the usual front piazza not adapted for a private sleeping

room. The owner and his family decided while they were about it to provide three outdoor bedrooms arranged so as to secure a certain degree of privacy.

The result was the topping of the front piazza with a room of the same width and eight feet long, and two rooms eight feet square, built one above the other near a rear corner of the house, each room guarded on three sides with a railing a yard high. The work was completed early last spring, since when three members of the family have seldom slept indoors, and two of them, semi-invalids for years, are gradually getting well.

The cost of the additions, in the opinion of the owner, will be long before it is offset by the saving in doctor's bills, to say nothing of medicine and nurse hire.

There have been occasions of late when fresh air enthusiasts have been the cause of embarrassment to themselves and to others. For instance, out in the Kingsbridge section are two houses not far apart and under one management which constitute a large boarding house and include a piazza reached only by way of the living room and a piazza reached via the dining room only. Either piazza is raised several feet above the street level and has a high railing.

A young fresh air enthusiast who last spring applied for board no sooner saw the piazza adjoining the living room than she went into ecstasies, offering to pay extra for the privilege of sleeping there at night. After some hesitation and with the proviso that not until all the other guests had vacated the piazza for the night must the cot put in an appearance, the landlady gave her consent. Before long, the evenings getting warmer, sitters began to linger on the piazza longer than was pleasing to the fresh air enthusiast, who, as a hint, began to have her cot brought on before the piazza was vacated.

At this some of the guests demurred. Early risers also protested at finding the piazza turned into a bedroom.

Finding herself getting unpopular, the lady changed her room, moving to sleep on the piazza off the dining room. This worked all right until early breakfast, when the landlady cut off the outdoor sleeping privilege and her boarder found quarters in a nearby apartment house which, like many of the newer apartments built lately in the Kingsbridge section, provides a rear piazza for each tenant. There she can sleep out of doors without interfering with anybody's comfort.

In one such fourth story apartment not far from the 228th street station live two young women stenographers, both narrow chested, pale and overworked looking six months ago. They have slept regularly on their piazza ever since a two weeks trial resulted in better digestion and complexion. These young women intend to continue sleeping out of doors all winter.

In one of the eighties not far from Central Park is an outdoor bedroom arranged on the roof of an extension butler's pantry, which every night is occupied by a business man who spends from eight to ten hours a day in an office. At the further end of the extension are a couple of poles between which and the house wall is stretched an adjustable awning.

Last August this man, forced to take a month's vacation, spent most of it at a modern fashionable hotel not a great way from New York which advertised outdoor bedrooms in deference to the growing popularity of the fresh air cure. The architecture of this hotel provides outside alcoves or niches in connection with at least one-half of the sleeping rooms. These alcoves for covered balconies are guarded with a high rail and furnished with suitable cots.

Five weeks trial of outdoor sleeping convinced the New Yorker that it was the best medicine for him. Therefore on his return home he at once set about converting the pantry extension into a bedroom.

Not far from this man lives a physician who after nearly one year's stay in an Adirondack sanitarium returned to New York restored in health to resume his practice. To sleep indoors after his mountain experience he found depressing. Therefore after consulting with friends who had mastered the difficulties of setting up an outdoor bedroom in the city he had put up on the roof of his butler's pantry a sort of shack made principally of wood which can easily be taken apart and by means of sliding doors may be used wide open or partly closed. In this the doctor sleeps.

One of the first extension roof bedrooms put up in New York is attached

to a house in West Fourteenth street. In this case the roof is enclosed in a wooden railing and poles support a canvas and side flaps.

Undoubtedly the costliest outdoor room built to date in Manhattan is included in the new house of Dr. E. Lang Ziegel, which is on the upper West Side. It is unique in fact among outdoor sleeping outfits of New York.

The house, a five story gray stone structure of the American basement style, includes a large extension butler's pantry on the second floor rear, and on top of this extension that the outdoor room is built, an iron stairway connecting it with a door leading into the third story room directly over the dining room.

The doctor says that in building his bedroom he had a twofold object in view: to gain a breezy hot weather bedroom and sitting room in view of the fact that he spends most of his summer in New York, and to provide a solarium and outdoor bedroom good for winter use. Instead of an ordinary wooden railing a three foot brick wall bounds the roof. From this at each corner rises a square brick column and connecting the columns at the top is a wooden beam. Two slender transverse beams form a skeleton roof covering

the room. The owner and his family decided while they were about it to provide three outdoor bedrooms arranged so as to secure a certain degree of privacy.

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to a house in West Fourteenth street. In this case the roof is enclosed in a wooden railing and poles support a canvas and side flaps.

Undoubtedly the costliest outdoor room built to date in Manhattan is included in the new house of Dr. E. Lang Ziegel, which is on the upper West Side. It is unique in fact among outdoor sleeping outfits of New York.

The house, a five story gray stone structure of the American basement style, includes a large extension butler's pantry on the second floor rear, and on top of this extension that the outdoor room is built, an iron stairway connecting it with a door leading into the third story room directly over the dining room.

The doctor says that in building his bedroom he had a twofold object in view: to gain a breezy hot weather bedroom and sitting room in view of the fact that he spends most of his summer in New York, and to provide a solarium and outdoor bedroom good for winter use. Instead of an ordinary wooden railing a three foot brick wall bounds the roof. From this at each corner rises a square brick column and connecting the columns at the top is a wooden beam. Two slender transverse beams form a skeleton roof covering

the room. The owner and his family decided while they were about it to provide three outdoor bedrooms arranged so as to secure a certain degree of privacy.

The result was the topping of the front piazza with a room of the same width and eight feet long, and two rooms eight feet square, built one above the other near a rear corner of the house, each room guarded on three sides with a railing a yard high. The work was completed early last spring, since when three members of the family have seldom slept indoors, and two of them, semi-invalids for years, are gradually getting well.

The cost of the additions, in the opinion of the owner, will be long before it is offset by the saving in doctor's bills, to say nothing of medicine and nurse hire.

There have been occasions of late when fresh air enthusiasts have been the cause of embarrassment to themselves and to others. For instance, out in the Kingsbridge section are two houses not far apart and under one management which constitute a large boarding house and include a piazza reached only by way of the living room and a piazza reached via the dining room only. Either piazza is raised several feet above the street level and has a high railing.

A young fresh air enthusiast who last spring applied for board no sooner saw the piazza adjoining the living room than she went into ecstasies, offering to pay extra for the privilege of sleeping there at night. After some hesitation and with the proviso that not until all the other guests had vacated the piazza for the night must the cot put in an appearance, the landlady gave her consent. Before long, the evenings getting warmer, sitters began to linger on